(c) This service will confirm to GSM 2 + standards. It will support teleservices, bearer services & supplementary services. It will also have Voice Mail Service, Short Message Service and Short Message Service Cell broadcast. 'Intelligent Network Platform' in this service will support in services like Prepaid SIM, Personal Number, Virtual Private Network Service, Freephone Services, Premium Rate Services and Universal Access Number Services.

Laun-ching of Subsidized called Telephone Millennium for Internet

2637. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL proposes to launch 100% subsidized called "Telecom millennium" for internet and other value added services;

(b) whether the decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) by when it is proposed to be launched ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, sir. The new subsidiary company called "Millennium Telecom Ltd." has been incorporated on 17-2-2000.

(c) It is proposed to be launched as soon as the Certificate of Commencement of Business is issued by the Registrar of Companies, Mumbai.

Internet Nodes

2638. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to meet its target of internet access nodes in all district head-quarters by January 26, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by Government so far and the achievements till date; and

(c) the details of the reasons for its failure to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The internet facility has been provided on local call basis at all the district headquarters before January 26, 2000 except Leh in Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Island which has also since been provided.

In first phase, Department of Telecom Services has planned one internet node each at all Secondary switching Areas (SSAs).

The second node will be installed if the demand justifies the same. As on 29-02-2000, out of 325 SSAs internet nodes have been installed in ninety two SSAs. The equipment for remaining internet nodes is under procurement/ installation.

Release of Commemorative Stamp in the name of Krantiveer 'Vasudev Balwant Phadke'

†2639. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criterion being adopted for releasing Commemorative stamp in the name of great Indian personalities;

(b) the number of such great personalities in whose name postage stamps were released during last year;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal to release a commemorative stamp in the honour of Krantiveer 'Vasudev Balwant Phadke';

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The guidelines for issue of commemorative postage stamps lay down that

(i) stamps on a personality may be issued on birth centenary or 10th/ 25th/50th/100th etc. death anniversary and the personality should be of national or international importance.

(ii) Not more than one stamp may be issued on the same personality.

(iii) The commemorative postage stamps issued on personalities should not exceed 25% of total number of stamps issued in the year.

(b) 28 (Twenty eight), sir.

(c) Not at present, Sir, However, on the basis of proposal received the Department of Posts issued a commemorative postage stamp in honour of "Vasudev Balwant Phadke" on 21-02-1984.

(d) and (e) does not arise in view of (c).

Expension and Modernisation of Telecommunications System

2640. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has been laying greater emphasis on the expansion and modernisation of telecommunication system in the country;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.